

Application Number: 10/088,228

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Art Unit: 3643

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning one page 31, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the same way as the above-described apparatus 51, this apparatus 101 may be also provided with an air nozzle ~~[[125A]]~~ 125B for blowing the air AR onto the intestine pushing member 114 in the process in which the air nozzle 125 is not blowing the air AA, so as to move the intestine pushing member 114 in the direction of arrow K.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning one page 32, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The intestine receiving member 152 is mounted by being fitted in the hole portion 153D such that the intestine receiving surface 152A is flush with the end face 153A. The hole portion 152C is designed to change the shirred portion 107A into the straight portion 107B, and has an inner peripheral portion for coming into contact with the outer peripheral surface of the straight portion 107B. The inner peripheral portion of the hole portion 152C faces the outer peripheral surface of the stuffing tube 155 in a state of close contact therewith or with a gap therewith. The intestine pushing member 156 has an annular member to be detected 160, and the detecting means 158 has a proximity sensor 161 for detecting the annular member to be detected 160. In the same way as the apparatus 1 and the apparatus 101, an arrangement may be provided such that the intestine receiving surface 152A is located in such a manner as to project toward the proximity sensor 161 side from the end face 153A. The end portion ~~[[125B]]~~ 152B of the intestine receiving member ~~[[125]]~~ 152